

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: PARTY LEADER REACTIONS TO THE THREAT OF DL 060
IMPLEMENTATION IN THUA THIEN

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL DANANG DATED MAY 28
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 587

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: PARTY LEADER REACTIONS TO THE GHREAT OF DL 060

IMPLEMENTATION IN THUA THIEN

1. HUE POLOFF HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON REACTIONS
TO IMPLEMENTATION OF DL 060 IN THUA THIEN: MOST POLITICAL
PARTY LEADERS IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION
NHAN XA CHAIRMAN LE VAN LUONG WHOSE PARTY IS NOW SHELTERED
UNDER THE BANNER OF THE FREEDOM PARTY, DO NOT ANTICIPATE
THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL BE CURTAILED EVEN IF THE
PROVINCE ADMINISTRATION CHOOSES TO ENFORCE THE MOI ORDER
DISSOLVING PARTIES WHO FAILED TO QUALIFY UNDER DL 060.

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VNQDD SPOKESMEN CONTEND THAT ONLY THE SUPREME COURT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DECLARE POLITICAL PARTIES ILLEGAL. MOREOVER, EVEN IF THE OUTWARD TRAPPINGS OF PARTY IDENTITY ARE STRIPPED AWAY, EXISTING PARTIES WILL CONTINUE TO FIELD CANDIDATES IN FUTURE ELECTIONS FOR THE LOWER AND UPPER HOUSES AS WELL AS VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS BECAUSE, THE VNQDD BELIEVES, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL NEVER PASS AN ELECTION LAW REQUIRE INPO ENDORSEMENT BY ONE OF THE THREE "LEGAL" PARTIES.

2. LAWYER TRAN TAN VIET, A VNQDD MEMBER, BELIEVES THAT

IF THE NHAN XA AND PNM PARTIES HAD REALIZED EARLIER THAT THE THREAT DL 060 POSES TO THEIR PARTIES' CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS REALLY QUITE LIMITED, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE JOINED THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (SDA). VIET POINTED OUT THAT EVEN NOW, MAI DUY THUAT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PNM STILL HAS THE PNM SIGN AND FLAG AT HIS PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND CONTINUES TO HOLD MEETINGS OF THE PNM WITH NO REFERENCE TO THE SDA. VIET EXPECTS THAT EVEN IF OTHER PARTIES JOIN ONE OF THE TWO NON- GOVERNMENT, "LEGAL" PARTIES, THERE WILL BE ONLY A LOOSE COALITION OF CONVENIENCE WITH NO SACRIFICE OF INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES.

3. BOTH NHAN XA AND VNQDD SPOKESMEN FORESEE THE DP WINNING A LARGE MAJORITY OF SEATS IN THE COMING VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THEY DISCOUNT SUCH A VICTORY AS A SIGN OF ANY DEGREE OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE DP SINCE THE FIRST LOYALTY OF THOSE WHO SIGNED UP AS DP CANDIDATES IS STILL WITH THEIR FORMER PARTIES AND THE ELECTORATE WILL BE AWARE OF THE TRUE PARTY AFFILIATION OF MOST CANDIDATES.

4. RDV CHAIRMAN NGUYEN NGOC CU VIEWS THE PROSPECT OF ENFORCEMENT OF DL 060 WITH CHARACTERISTIC DEFIANCE. WHATEVER THE GVN DECREES WILL HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON RDV ACTIVITIES. CU STATED THAT HIS PARTY WILL GO UNDERGROUND IF THAT IS WHAT IT TAKES TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THE PEOPLE'S OPPOSITIONIST SENTIMENTS. LUONG (NHAN XA) WOULD NOT DISCOUNT CU'S MILITANCY. IN FACT HE EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER THE ENMITY BETWEEN THE RDV AND THE DP COULD ERUPT INTO VIOLENCE IN FORM OF KIDNAPPING AND ASSASSINATIONS OF CANDIDATES BY BOTH SIDES.
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5. IN COUNTER POINT TO THE ABOVE THEMES, DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION HO VAN CUONG TOLD POLOFF THAT, WHEN INSTRUCTIONS TO IMPLEMENT DL 060 ARE RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, PROVINCE AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE NO SUBSTANTIVE ACTION TO CLOSE- OUT THE THEN ILLEGAL PARTY ACTIVITIES. THESE PARTIES WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO EXIST ON

PAPER.
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WHITEHOUSE

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